

The Leesburg Tree Commission met in regular session on Monday April 17, 2000 at 7:30 p.m. in the Council Meeting Room, 25 West Market Street, Leesburg, Virginia. Members present were: Mr. John Groothuis, Ms. Anne Wall, Mr. Jay Frye, Mr. Jim Hicks, Mr. Earl Hower, and Ms. Kathleen Pritchard. Staff was represented by Mr. Jay S. Banks and Susan DeJong.

MINUTES

The Minutes of the March 20, 2000 meeting were approved as written.

OLD BUSINESS

The sign-up sheet for the Flower and Garden Festival was passed around for all who could volunteer their time on Saturday and Sunday.

Mr. Banks stated that the Virginia Department of Forestry can not provide the River Birch seedlings for the Commission to hand out at the Festival. The Tree Commission approved Mr. Banks' substitution of a Sweetgum tree seedling. Mr. Banks will try to provide the Commission with a color photo of a mature tree for the Flower and Garden Festival.

Ms. Pritchard said that she had the plastic sleeves to put the seedlings in, and would drop them by Mr. Banks' office sometime during the week before the Festival.

Mr. Groothuis will contact Mr. and Mrs. Dewar about helping out at the Festival.

Ms. Wall stated that the Tree Commission went before the Committee of the Whole with their presentation and Mr. Banks has been given the task to provide the necessary information to obtain a permit from VDOT to plant in the Eastern Gateway area.

Mr. Banks said that VDOT would then review what he has sent them and send comments back to him. Any comments will then have to be addressed with corrections or alteration and sent back to VDOT for final approval.

Mr. Banks reminded the Commissioners that the meeting before the Town Council is still on for Monday June 12th, at 7:00 p.m. but that the room has been changed from the Council Chambers to the Lower Level Meeting Room.

Several topics for the meeting were discussed by the Commission:

- Centralization of Landscape management for the Town
- Additional help for the Town Arborist
- Landscape plans and plantings
- Tree Planting in the Eastern Gateway

Mr. Hower suggested that the Commission should repeat the objectives to achieve their strategic goals as part of the introduction and that perhaps the Commission should have a future project in mind (for when the 2000 by 2000 project is finished).

Mr. Banks stated that he thought that a Tree Manual could be a possibility. This would be something that would address issues like “tunneling”, proper installation of trees and the Zoning Ordinance. A manual has an opportunity to bring a lot of issues together.

Mr. Groothuis mentioned that he spoke with Mayor Clem during the Arbor Day Celebration and that the Town is probably going to be acquiring two new school sites within the next few years. Mr. Groothuis asked the Mayor that if the Town could possibly acquire more land than the school site required than perhaps there could be “tree save” areas at these school sites. For example the school at Potomac Falls has trees in the front that were left and there is a wetlands area in the back.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Mr. Hower mentioned that he recently read “The Citizens Strategy for Smart Growth in Loudoun County” This was part of Chairman York’s Transition team. On page 33 there is a point made about some of the things they want to do in the County, which is very similar to what the Tree Commission has been doing in the Town including a Tree Save Ordinance, some trails and Greenway plans. Mr. Hower said that the Tree Commission might be able to help the County with some suggestions.

Mr. Hower also said that he had a chance to speak with Congressman Wolf tonight on behalf of the Tree Commission, Environmental Advisory Commission and the Parks and Recreation Commission about their concerns supporting the Chesapeake Bay 2000 and the Conservation and Reinvestment Act.

Mr. Groothuis asked Mr. Hower if the people who did the tree planting along the Riparian Buffer at Ida Lee Park plan to replace the lost trees.

Mr. Hower answered that these trees would be replaced in the Fall.

Mr. Banks stated that the six trees planted by the Commission at the Public Safety Center are doing well and this will also be the site of the 2000th tree.

Mr. Banks further stated that all of the trees that were identified as hazard trees or critical removals from the tree inventory have been taken out.

There being no further business the Tree commission adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Jay S. Banks, Town Arborist